

My concern is, though, with the appropriation of \$88,000 for the public radio system. I think most of the other issues that we are dealing with in this particular override deal with basic money matters. Should we give some money to study children or computers, new computers, or adult education, dealing with ongoing programs or programs that we are involved with, money for Douglas County Hospital? Most of these deal with ongoing programs providing additional money, and some deal with basic philosophical areas that people can support, but when we are talking about public radio, we are not talking about an \$88,000 appropriation. What we are talking about is, I feel, a multimillion dollar appropriation because, like so many other state agencies around, they start small and they grow, and that is the only intent of providing this \$88,000 to the budget, to start with a small state agency and then it turns into a multimillion dollar bureaucracy. Now maybe that is something that everyone supports, maybe that is something that some support, but as I recall, there wasn't 30 votes to advance public radio. There wasn't 30 votes to put this additional \$88,000 into the budget. There was closer to 25 votes, maybe 26, but there was not 30. I feel that the support for public radio is soft, and I think that when you talk about public radio, you are talking about a basic philosophical problem that I have with it, and that is, you have a private sector, a private sector that at the current time is doing a good job. It provides news. It provides weather, emergency information that is not or will not be given to people unless they had a radio system. Now it is regulated by the federal government so they provide that kind of emergency information that is required, and I feel that if there was a demand for the type of programming that public radio provides, I feel that it would be provided, that you would have a private station organized that would be able to sell the commercial time, and after it sold the commercial time, it would be an ongoing radio station, but apparently there is not a demand for it, a very small demand for it. But the Legislature by establishing the program is, in essence, saying we realize that it will be a very small area of the market, a very, very small area of the market, but it is an area that we should be involved with. Now any market share that they do take, or do become a part of, it takes away from the private sector, a private sector that has to go out there and is in direct competition with public radio. It takes dollars away from the radio stations, and I don't believe that government should be involved in competing with the private sector. I feel very strongly about it, a bill that I introduced this session